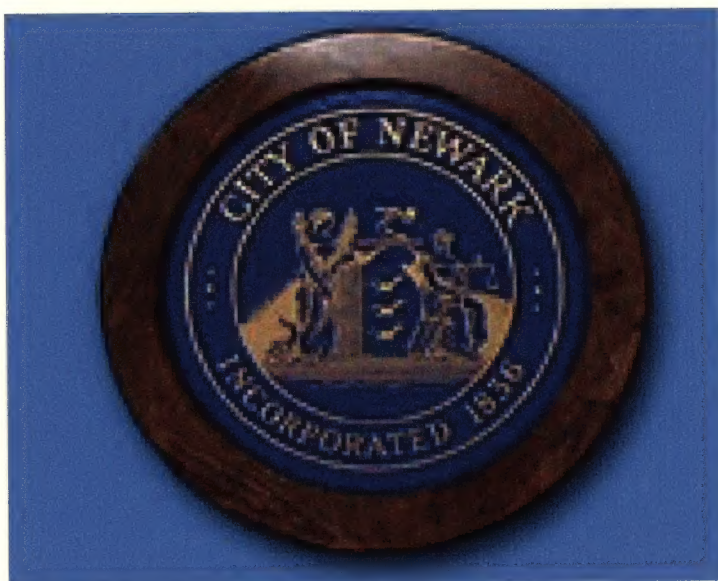


**CITY OF NEWARK
SPIRIT OF THE BENCH**

RECOGNITION

LUNCHEON



**NEWARK MUNICIPAL COURT
31 GREEN ST,
NEWARK, N.J. 07102
COURT ROOM—PART 20**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 27TH 2003
1:00 PM— 2:00 PM**

PROGRAM



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|--|---|
| I. Introduction | Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.S.C. |
| II. Words of welcome | Hon. Sharpe James, Mayor |
| III. Remarks: | |
| A. City Council | Hon. Donald Bradley, Council President |
| B. Assignment Judge | Hon. Joseph A. Falcone, A.J.S.C. |
| C. Recognition of Court Directors | Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.S.C., Acting Chief Judge |
| D. Special recognition The Late Robert Strand | Hon. Sharpe James, Mayor |
| IV. Reflections by Former Presiding Judges appointed to State bench or County Prosecutor | 1. Hon. Harry Hazelwood, J.S.C. Retired 2. Hon. Irving Booker, J.S.C. Retired 3. Hon. Betty J. Lester, J.S.C. 4. Hon. Clifford J. Minor, Former Essex County Prosecutor |
| V. Presentation | Hon. Glenn A. Grant, J.S.C., Acting Chief |
| VI. Wall of Justice | The Court Library |

The Newark Municipal Court has had a proud history of public service. The judges who have served this Court over the last thirty years have established a record of accomplishment that will be difficult to replicate. From Judge Hazelwood, to our most recent appointee, Judge Santiago, the legacy continues. First African-American Judge appointed to our municipal court and its first Presiding Judge of color. The first Hispanic appointed to our municipal court. The first female Presiding Judge. The first judge from New Jersey appointed to the Third Circuit of the Federal Bench. Lastly, there have been more judges appointed from this court to the State bench than from any other municipality

HONORABLE SHARPE JAMES, MAYOR



Refreshments served

LIST OF HONOREES AND TENURE WITH NEWARK MUNICIPAL COURT

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Hon. Julio M. Fuentes | 1978 - 1987 |
| 2. | Hon. William Walls | 1968 - 1970 |
| 3. | Hon. Harry Hazelwood | 1958 - 1974 |
| 4. | Hon. Frances M. Cocchia | 1969 - 1972 |
| 5. | Hon. John Dios | 1974 - 1975 |
| 6. | Hon. Irving Booker | 1970 - 1980 |
| 7. | Hon. Betty J. Lester | 1977 - 1985 |
| 8. | Hon. Craig R. Harris | 1982 - 1991 |
| 9. | Hon Clifford J. Minor | 1985 - 1992 |
| 10. | Hon. Renee Jones Weeks | 1986 - 1988 |
| 11. | Hon. Michael J. Nelson | 1988 - 1990 |
| 12. | Hon. Claude M. Coleman | 1991 - 1992 |
| 13. | Hon. Ramona A. Santiago | 1997 - 2003 |

My most memorable moments overall were the wonderful days spent with terrific colleagues and the hard working staff of the Municipal Court. It always amazed me that we managed to accomplish so much with so little. Considering all the difficulties we confronted, we managed to do a respectable job. The people I worked with are my best memory.

HON. JULIO M. FUENTES, U.S.C.J.

My most memorable moment was my date of appointment and taking the oath in May, 1991 as a full-time Municipal Court Judge for the City of Newark. It represented the most dramatic change in my career... Though I was proud and honored to have been chosen as a member of the Judiciary, I realized that I was now compelled to separate myself somewhat from all my former friends and activities. It was quite an adjustment.

HON. CLAUDE M. COLEMAN, J.S.C.

One of the greatest experiences to me working with the Municipal Court of Newark was the opportunity to meet all people of all walks of life and being sensitive to their differences and needs.

HON. RAMONA A. SANTIAGO, J.S.C.

SPIRIT OF THE BENCH

The City of Newark has changed drastically over the last 50 years. I'm proud of the fact that I was the first person of color appointed to the Newark Municipal Court. My lasting memory of my days on the bench involved the citizens of this great City. It was a pleasure and honor to work with my colleagues at the Newark Municipal Court and to have provided fair and equal justice to the citizens of this City.

HON. HARRY HAZELWOOD, J.S.C., Retired

My most memorable moment serving as the Presiding Judge of the Newark Municipal Court involves the establishment of the courthouse at 31 Green Street. It was through my efforts to convince the then Mayor, Kenneth Gibson, on the need for the expansion of the court operation. We were able to create a single location for all of the court operations. This was accomplished through the work of City employees. I am also proud of the fact that our Court was able to be an innovator and leader to establish programs to improve services to the citizens of Newark.

HON. IRVING BOOKER, J.S.C., Retired

I owe a lot to the City of Newark; to Mayor Gibson who reposed confidence in a young female attorney to be the first woman to preside over the court; and to the City Council that at that time included Mayor James, for all the support and encouragement that I received. These are the factors that enable success. They provided me with the opportunity and the means to succeed. For this I am eternally grateful.

HON. BETTY J. LESTER, J.S.C.

The years that I presided as a Judge of the Newark Municipal Court, and particularly as Presiding Judge were life-defining years for me. I literally learned every skill that I presently possess as an administrator at 31 Green Street....it was certainly an honor and a privilege to have worked with so many wonderful people who have such an extraordinary effort to provide professional services to the citizens of the Greater Newark Community. These experiences alone will always humble me when I think back and realize that I have become a part of the great historical experience that has taken place in the Municipal Court of Newark.

HON. CLIFFORD J. MINOR, FORMER ESSEX COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Having been born and raised in the City of Newark it was a pleasure to serve as a Judge and then Presiding Judge of the court. This gave me an opportunity to give something back to the citizens and recognize all of the people and programs in the City of Newark that contributed to my success. It was a pleasure working in the court in the City that I grew up in.

HON. ALISON BROWN JONES, J.M.C.

